

GRADE—A honors our commitment to military families and other families, especially American Indians. It guarantees that those families who serve to protect our freedom and in turn protected by the federal government.

TRIBUTE TO THE ROMEO CHAPTER  
19 LADIES OF THE ORDER OF  
THE EASTERN STAR OF THE  
STATE OF MICHIGAN

**HON. DAVID E. BONIOR**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 3, 2001*

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the Romeo Lodge #19 Ladies of the Order of the Eastern Star of the State of Michigan, who celebrated their 106th birthday on March 31, 2001.

Since the Grand Chapter of Michigan recognized the start of the Romeo Chapter #19 Order of the Eastern Star on October 10, 1895, the Romeo Chapter #19 has been a thriving sister center of social, religious, and political life to all its members and their families. Dedicated to education, morality, and improving the quality of life for its Masonic family, the Ladies of Romeo have worked tirelessly to improve the community through their contributions in charity, scholarship, and service.

Through the years, the Romeo Chapter #19 Ladies of the Order of the Eastern Star have devoted their time and efforts to maintaining the tenets of Masonry, encouraging kindness, respect, and good will towards all men and women. They have proudly organized philanthropic activities for members and non-members, assisting in times of hardship, sickness, death and disability. As they celebrate 106 years, I am confident they will continue to lead the community through their benevolent service.

Demonstrating outstanding leadership and commitment, the success of the Romeo Lodge #19 Ladies of the Order of the Eastern Star is a true testament to the hard work and dedication of its members and its community. I applaud Romeo Lodge #19 for their leadership, sisterhood, and commitment, and I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating them on their 106th Anniversary.

IN HONOR OF THE MIGUEL  
MIQUELI AND THE JOSÉ MARTI  
STUDENT AID FUND

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 3, 2001*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Miguel Miqueli, founder of the José Martí Student Aid Fund, Inc., for his contributions to education and to the Hispanic community in West New York, New Jersey. To celebrate the success of the José Martí Student Aid Fund and to honor Miguel Miqueli, an award dinner and dance will be held on May 5, 2001.

Miguel Miqueli was born on July 11, 1937 in San Antonio de los Baños, Cuba. He received his elementary education in El Colegio Belen

in Havana, Cuba. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in Science and Philosophy from the Pitman Academy, and concluded his studies in Business Administration at Havana University. In April, 1961, Mr. Miqueli emigrated from Cuba to the United States, where he and his father opened a jewelry store in West New York.

In 1965, Mr. Miqueli became a member of the Lions Club of West New York, and he later co-founded the Hispanic Mercantile Federation, to which he was elected president in 1973; he is currently a member of the board of directors. In February 1978, along with a group of dedicated teachers, he founded the José Martí Student Aid Fund, Inc., and served as the president until 2000. As a collaborative effort with the Cuban-American Foundation he coordinated the project "Mision Martí" in 1992.

Through his work as an educator and community activist, Miguel Miqueli has truly been a valuable asset to Hudson County. He has compassionately dedicated himself to the field of education and to the Hispanic community.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Miguel Miqueli and the José Martí Student Aid Fund.

A SALUTE TO DAVID HECKER

**HON. SANDER M. LEVIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 3, 2001*

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work and achievements of David Hecker, as he is honored by The Workmen's Circle/Arbeter Ring in Oak Park, Michigan on May 6, 2001.

The Workmen's Circle/Arbeter Ring is a national fraternal organization committed to the pursuit of social and economic justice while fostering Jewish identity through culture, education, friendship and mutual aid.

I have had the honor and pleasure of knowing David for many years. It is not surprising that David's life's work has embodied these ideals. His union roots run deep, back to Poland where David's paternal grandfather was active in the Bund (a Jewish labor organization). David's parents, Arnold and Josephine, were both activists in the labor movement: Arnold in the United Auto Workers and Josephine in the Health Care Union in the Bronx, New York.

David has pursued advanced degrees in labor relations and has worked his entire adult life on behalf of working people. He has been active with the American Federation of Government Employees, the Allied Industrial Workers, the Michigan AFL-CIO, the Metropolitan Detroit AFL-CIO, and the Michigan Federation of Teachers and School Related Personnel.

David embodies the values of social and economic justice in every aspect of his life. His passion for his work and beliefs shines through in his personality. David is a gifted organizer, motivator and strategic planner. He has used his talents in numerous roles to the benefit of many.

David is truly devoted to creating A Besere Un A Shenere Velt (A Better and More Beautiful World). His commitment to community is evident through his work as a board member of the Jewish Community Council and the

Michigan Association for Children with Emotional Disorders, as well as his political activity in the Democratic Party.

We are truly fortunate that such a talented individual has committed his life to working for economic and social justice. We are especially fortunate that he and his wife, Alice Audie-Figueroa, have chosen to make the Metro Detroit community their home.

So, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating David and wishing both David and Alice, along with their children, Joelle, Jose and Gustavo, the very best.

RECOGNIZING IMPORTANCE OF  
INCREASING AUTISM AWARENESS

SPEECH OF

**HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2001*

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to show my support for H. Con. Res. 91, the Increase Awareness of Autism and Support Greater Research, Treatment & Training Resolution, to honor Autism Awareness Day, and to pay tribute to parents and families of autistic children everywhere.

As a result of autism, an estimated 400,000 Americans have lost the ability to communicate and interact with others. In my home state of Rhode Island, autism had become an absolute crisis. The incidence of the disorder has risen by over 1000% in the past seven years, and by over 300% in the past five years alone.

Caring for people afflicted with autism costs more than \$13 billion per year, and the majority of these costs are borne by the families of the victims of autism. These parents have sacrificed tremendously to provide the specialized education and support services that their children need. Yet, they still do not receive the support they deserve from the government.

My nephew has a form of autism so I know firsthand the challenges these families face. Many days, my nephew's parents cannot hold conversations with their son. Communicating with him takes extraordinary patience. Had his parents not engaged him in an intensive intervention program immediately after his diagnosis, he would have made much less progress today. It was not many years ago that children with autism would have been misdiagnosed and often institutionalized for the rest of their lives.

Parents of autistic children regularly encounter people who do not understand the difficulties associated with autism. Friends and teachers become impatient. They repeat the same phrase over and over, as if the child will understand if it is repeated one more time. Teachers are often ill-equipped to deal with the special challenges of autistic children. H. Con. Res. 91 calls upon federal, state and local governments to allocate sufficient resources to alleviate the shortage of appropriately trained teachers of autistic children; and recognizes the importance of worker training programs tailored to the needs of developmentally disabled persons, including those with autism.

The resolution further expresses Congress' support for increasing federal funding for research to learn the causes of autism, identify